FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

11 APRIL 1984

Lebanon

A new cease-fire agreement scheduled to take effect 10 April was not honored, and areas in West Beirut came under concentrated artillery fire from the eastern sector, wounding a large number of civilians and causing fires in several places, Beirut radio reported. Tension on the contact lines subsequently eased as the fighting died out, the radio noted. Beirut radio said the Lebanese-Syrian summit is expected this week although no official date has been set. Meanwhile, President Amin al-Jumayyil met with former Ministers Marwan Hamadah and Khalid Junblatt, colleagues of Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt, to discuss "pressing national affairs," including efforts to implement decisions of the Lausanne conference, according to the radio.

Commenting on the disengagement agreement approved by the Higher Political Security Committee, a "nationalist source" cited by the PSP's clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio dismissed the plan as a "small card" which President al-Jumayyil will attempt to portray as a "huge achievement" in his talks with the Syrians. The source said the disengagement plan is so general as to encourage "further maneuvers" by the government group, which is still playing for time in the hope of receiving external assistance. Syria's *TISHRIN*, in an editorial reviewed by Damascus radio, stressed that the disengagement plan is designed to achieve a cease-fire and preserve Lebanon's unity. The disengagement lines must separate the fighters but not the citizens, the paper asserted, and Syria will not allow "partitionist forces" to undermine Lebanon's unity by transforming the disengagement lines into a "fait accompli."

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will meet with DFLP and PFLP leaders Nayif Hawatimah and George Habash in Algiers on 20 April, Radio Monte Carlo reported citing Palestinian sources.

Iraq-Israel

The Iraqi newspapers *ATH-THAWRAH* and *AL-JUMHURIYAH* warned that Israel is preparing new "aggression" against Iraq, and the Iraqi foreign minister sent a message to the UN secretary general concerning Israel's "aggressive intentions" against Iraq's scientific and industrial installations, INA reported. A senior Israeli official cited by Jerusalem radio dismissed as "absurd" the charge that Israel is planning to attack Iraq's "chemical" plant.

Iran-Iraq War

Delegation in Tokyo — Iran has no intention of escalating the war with Iraq, but foresees no immediate end to it, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said in a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, KYODO reported. In another report, following an earlier meeting with Velayati and other Iranian officials, Japanese officials disclosed that Iran had warned of Soviet efforts to increase its influence in the Middle East and criticized the USSR for helping Iraq wage chemical warfare, according to KYODO.

Egyptian Initiative — An Egyptian initiative to end the Gulf war is being "studied" before being sent to Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the current head of the Nonaligned Movement, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak said in an interview reported by MENA. Asked whether he was suggesting that peacekeeping forces be sent to Iran and Iraq, Mubarak answered: "Why not?" A commentary broadcast by Tehran radio's Arabic service asserted that Mubarak's diplomatic initiative is designed to extricate Egypt from its political isolation and concluded that it "will not change the course of the war."

Iranian Reinforcements — More than 4,000 revolution guards left for the battle fronts on 9 and 10 April, Tehran radio reported.

Iranian Atom Bomb — Iran is constructing an atomic bomb in Bushehr which is likely to be ready in 2 years, the Italian weekly *PANORAMA* alleged according to KUNA.

Clergyman Defects — Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Tehrani, a former assistant to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni and brother-in-law of President Ali Khamene'i, recently defected to Iraq and attacked Khomeyni's "inhuman practices" against the Iranian people and his departure from Islamic teachings in a series of addresses broadcast in Iraqi radio and television Persian language programs.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 071 *11 April 1984*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Foreign Minister Meets With UN's Cordovez ..... C 1
KABUL NEW TIMES Cited on CIA 'Interference' ..... C 1
BAKHTAR Praises Chernenko Statement ..... C 1
Voice of Islamic Revolution Reports on Fighting ..... C 2
Herat Province Clashes ..... C 2
Jowzjan, Nimruz Provinces ..... C 2

BANGLADESH

7-Party Alliance Submits 32-Point Demands ..... D 1
OBSERVER Reports on Nationalist Party Meeting *[1 Apr]* ..... D 1
OBSERVER Views Failure of Ganges Water Talks *[2 Apr]* ..... D 1

INDIA

Port Strike Called Off Following Agreement ..... E 1
Reportage on Situation in Punjab 10-11 April ..... E 1
Amritsar Curfew ..... E 1
Terrorist Activity ..... E 1
Council Releases 1983-84 Economic Projections ..... E 1
Fuel Potential of Heavy Water Plants Discussed ..... E 1

PAKISTAN

UN's Cordovez Reviews Talks, Leaves for Kabul ..... F 1
Iranian Cultural Delegation Arrives 11 April ..... F 1
Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Describes Talks ..... F 1
NAWA-E WAQT on 'Bottlenecks' in U.S. Aid Program *[1 Apr]* ..... F 1

OTHER COUNTRIES

Reportage on Situation in Jaffna 11 April ..... G 1
Curfew Reimposed ..... G 1
Tension Continues *[Delhi]* ..... G 1
Violence Described ..... G 1
Security Minister Urges Cooperation Against Terror ..... G 1

IRAN

Italian Weekly Reports Work on Atomic Bomb *[KUNA]* ..... I 1
Aim of Egyptian Initiative on Gulf War Examined ..... I 1
Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,692 ..... I 1
Post Office Boxes Set Up in Majnun Islands ..... I 2
Water Heaters Manufactured for War Front Use ..... I 2
IRNA: U.S. Riot Control Equipment Shipped to Iraq ..... I 2
Armored Division Commander Comments on War ..... I 2
Ayatollah Meshkini Addresses SAIRI Fighters ..... I 2
Armenian Group Warns Ozal Against Visiting Iran ..... I 2

Materials on Upcoming Majlis Elections ..... I 3
Elections Committee Statement ..... I 3
IRNA on BBC Comments ..... I 3
Bazargan Boycott *[Radio Iran]* ..... I 3
National Front Statement *[Radio Iran]* ..... I 4
Cultural Minister Leaves for Pakistan ..... I 4
NVOI Comments on Mission of UN Envoy on Afghanistan ..... I 4

Foreign Minister Meets With UN's Cordovez

LD101647 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Apr 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost met this afternoon at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with Diego Cordovez, representative of the UN secretary general. At this meeting, which took pace in the presence of Deputy Foreign Ministers Sarwar Yurish and Sakhi Daneshjo and members of the delegation of the representative of the UN secretary general, there was a discussion in a friendly atmosphere about his mission to find a solution for the events surrounding Afghanistan.

KABUL NEW TIMES Cited on CIA 'Interference'

LD080726 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 8 Apr 84

[Text] Kabul, April 7, BAKHTAR — The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of the USA and White House strive to hamper with all possible means the stabilization of the situation and development of revolutionary process in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, writes *KABUL NEW TIMES*. This is reflected in the U.S. preparation for increasing the assistance to the Afghan counter-revolution, delivery of modern arms including surface-to-air and anti-tank weapons, the change in the combat methods of the counterrevolutionary bandits by the American trainers, etc.

Recently, the newspaper goes on, two other revealing documents were seized from the counterrevolutionary groups during mopping up operations by the armed forces of the country. This document which is published in the press bears witness to the "open hand" of the American advisors in continuation and expansion of the undeclared war against the DRA and is indicative of the fact that Washington has full control over the activities of Afghan counterrevolution. Some time ago William Casey the president of the CIA [as received] in an interview with the *DAILY TELEGRAPH* gave himself the right to talk about the supervision of the CIA over the countries whose situation has become complicated.

But the CIA has taken a further step forward about our country: "Intervention after intervention and expansion of the scale of aggression against the people."

Sleg Harrison the famous American figure in international relations, connected with D. Carnegie Foundation, has recently explained as follows: "The Reagan administration is against the peaceful settlement of the situation around Afghanistan and continues the long undeclared war against Afghanistan."

Washington's plans for preventing a peaceful settlement of the situation around Afghanistan is not hidden from the eyes of the people at large. Thus, the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DRA some time ago (on March 11, 1984) revealed that representatives of the U.S. administration are not only not interested in political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan but endeavour to hamper any possible way of reaching such settlement by intensifying the undeclared war. This fact was stressed by George Shultz, the U.S. secretary of state, in the National Security Committee. Likewise, Shaffer, the deputy state secretary, in a press conference clearly confessed that the United States of America helps the Afghan counter-revolution.

The statement of a high ranking official of the CIA published in daily *WASHINGTON POST* in late December 1983 fully clarifies this point. He said: "It is clear that the United States of America cannot accept any settlement which is now negotiated in the United Nations Organisation even if it results in the withdrawal of the military forces of the Soviet Union because this would mean the recognition of the Kabul regime, the ally of the Soviet Union, by Pakistan."

This allegation indicates that the CIA is not willing to give up the continuation of interference in Afghanistan. Simultaneously the CIA intends to give the war against revolutionary Afghanistan greater dimensions.

BAKHTAR Praises Chernenko Statement

LD061049 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 6 Apr 84

[Text] Kabul, April 5, BAKHTAR — A political observer of BIA writes: One of the major characteristics of the foreign policy of imperialist countries, especially the USA, is that their words and deeds never match because their policy is based on lie and deceit.

On the contrary, the principled and humanitarian policies of the socialist countries are frank and realistic.

The recent reply of the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Konstantin Chernenko, to the appeal from the leading figures of the Socialist International as to the dangers of a nuclear confrontation is a clear testimony to this fact.

The scientific, valuable and concrete reply sent by Konstantin Chernenko to the appeal of the leaders of the Socialist International, comprising the socialist, social-democratic and labour parties, has made the world to realise, despite the imperialist propaganda smokescreen, where actually the danger of a nuclear disaster emanates from.

Stressing that the danger cannot be concealed by demagogic pronouncements, Konstantin Chernenko has said that although lately the United States has been professing its desire for a dialogue with the USSR, it is not backing it up with anything specific.

Moreover, these professions are belied by practical actions towards the opposite direction. From this it follows that what matters is not the statements issued but rather the readiness to clear the obstacles which were created in the way of the talks on nuclear arms limitations and reduction.

The whole set of proposals put forward by the Soviet Union is aimed at achieving this. To freeze forthwith all the nuclear arsenals, to limit and substantially reduce the strategic arms, to radically curb the possibilities of nuclear confrontation in Europe, to prevent militarisation of space, to prohibit and destroy

chemical weapons — these and other measures are aimed at removing the war menace.

As against the Soviet Union, the USA not only does not accept the rational and constructive proposals which would accord with the existing conditions of the international situation but has also kept silence towards the proposals put forward by the Soviet Union which are based on good will and the will for reducing tension in international relations.

The existing actual and objective international situation demands that something must be done not for propaganda purposes but for providing the prerequisites for the beginning of a serious negotiation which would gradually provide the ground for the creation of mutual confidence among the nuclear powers.

As Konstantin Chernenko has stated in his reply message, the conference on security and cooperation in Europe can be a good beginning for achieving this end.

Experience shows that the United States first of all preferred the deployment of the medium range nuclear missiles in the member countries of NATO to the talks with the Soviet Union in order to pressurise the Soviet Union against a fait accompli.

Thus, it closed the door for talks and precipated a dangerous deadlock with the deployment of these missiles in Europe.

Now, the ostensibly peaceful pronouncements made by President Reagan are nothing but demagogic attempts aimed at neutralising the great peace movements in the European countries where voice of opposition has been raging against the deployment of American missiles in their territory.

Voice of Islamic Revolution Reports on Fighting

Herat Province Clashes

GF080918 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1715 GMT 7 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Following a series of bloody encounters, our mujahidin brothers have succeeded in capturing the Chesht-e Sharif region in Herat Province. In these heroic operations that began a month ago, one local commander of the evil Khad organization and several other government officials were captured by our Muslim brothers. In these operations, at least 28 people from the self-selling Khalq and Parcham Parties were killed. According to estimates, more than 100 heavy and light transport vehicles; 110 6-shooters, 11-shooters, and machine guns; 2 82-mm rocket launchers; 4 Grenov machine guns; and several other kinds of weapons were captured by our mujahid brothers.

In these successful operations, three enemy tanks were destroyed. It should be mentioned here that the Karmal regime so far has broadcast no news about this defeat.

Our mujahidin brothers in another successful attack on an enemy operational force in Herat Province killed 11 Karmal mercenaries. The dead include several Karmal officials. Many enemy soldiers were wounded in this operation which used night-attack tactics; 25 Karmal soldiers defected to the mujahidin side. Our mujahidin brothers also captured a considerable quantity of enemy weapons. At the end of these operations, our mujahidin brothers returned safely to their bases.

Jowzjan, Nimruz Provinces

GF090509 (Clandestine) Voice of Islamic Revolution of Afghanistan in Dari 1716 GMT 8 Apr 84

[Text] In continuation of the heavy fighting between our crusading brothers and the enemies of the independence of our people and country, a heavy clash is going on in a principality of Jowzjan Province. The scene of the battle is located 70 km from the Russian border and our brothers have managed to inflict severe blows on the infidel and [word indistinct] enemy. To date, one of their helicopter gunships has been shot down and 14 Soviet aggressors have been killed.

The occupying enemy who is unable to resist us in the battle has martyred a large number of Muslims or made them refugees by bombarding the civilian areas around the battle scene.

Our crusading brothers, in a lightning attack against a counterinheck hyphenationsurgency unit in Nimruz Province, managed to destroy the base and kill two Khalq and Parcham mercenaries. After taking the gold from the two mercenaries in this brave operation, our brothers safely returned to base.

7-Party Alliance Submits 32-Point Demands

BK10144l Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 10 Apr 84

[Text] The 7-party alliance led by the acting chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, Begum Khaleda Zia, went to Banga Bhavan in Dhaka yesterday evening in response to the invitation of President Ershad for a dialogue on important national issues, including the 5-point demands.

Begum Zia in her opening remarks stated that the government had already met the precondition set by the alliance, therefore, the alliance came to dialogue on the basis of the 5-points. During the dialogue, the alliance submitted a written note containing 32-points split under 12 heads in support of their demands.

Begum Khaleda Zia further stated that it is difficult for the (?7-party) alliance to discuss their [as heard] 33-point demands in the presence of Prime Minister Ataur Rahman Khan. The alliance leader then left the conference after 5 minutes.

Later, addressing newsmen about the dialogue, the special assistant to the president said the government is examining the 32-point demands submitted by the 7-party alliance. He said President Ershad has been making consistent offorts to reach a consensus on national issues. We still hope that a consensus will be reached.

Regarding the controversy over the presence of the prime minister in the dialogue, the special assistant to the president maintained: How can a party determine the composition of another party for a dialogue?

OBSERVER Reports on Nationalist Party Meeting

BK060351 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 1 Apr 84 p 1

[Text] An extended meeting of the BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] held on Saturday at the office of the city unit of the party delegated all authority to Party Chairman Begum Khaleda Zia to take any decision on behalf of the party on the coming political dialogue.

The meeting was attended by office-bearers of Thana Committees, Central Committee, and District Committees. In all 31 leaders of different committees addressed it. Begum Khaleda Zia was in the chair.

Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the meeting said that if the government accepted the three-point demand as a precondition to participation in the dialogue, "We will participate in it. The dialogue will be held on the basis of the five-point demand of the alliance" she said. As long as our demands are not accepted, dialogue will continue and you have no reason to fear, she said. "We want to realise the demands of the people in a peaceful way and we will ask the government to accept our demands within a definite time. We cannot continue the dialogue for long," she said.

If the demands are not accepted within the given time, we will go for movement with the people, she said. She also called upon the party leaders to go to the villages to organise the party and to help solve the people's problems. She said that they would realise the five-point national demand. The meeting also condemned the police action on the students, workers and women and demanded compensation to the affected people.

OBSERVER Views Failure of Ganges Water Talks

BK060344 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 2 Apr 84 p 5

[Editorial: "Ganges Water"]

[Text] The 26th Joint River Commission [JRV] meeting held in Dhaka has reportedly failed. The talks seem to have foundered on the concrete of the Farakka Barrage. Nevertheless the failure has not caused much of a surprise if the procrastination marking the proceedings extended over the years concerning a settlement of the Ganges water sharing dispute between Bangladesh and India is any guide.

The problem for Bangladesh has obviously taken on quite a serious new dimension with little or no indication emerging from the Dhaka meeting about the extension of the Ganges water sharing agreement that is expiring on May 31 next. There is also the failure of the meeting to recommend a fresh mandate after the expiry of the mandatory 18-month period fixed by the Ershad-Indira New Delhi summit due to expire on April 6. The JRC meeting also reportedly rejected both the proposals of Bangladesh and India for augmenting the dry season Ganges flows at Farakka.

With the talks as good as foredoomed to failure and despite the routine reassurance about both governments being in touch for a possible future solution the fact that we have to face up to is that the threatened consequences of the decreased flow from the Ganges include near desertification of about a third of Bangladesh. Needless to say the acutest need of the Ganges water is felt during the lean period from October onwards, for irrigation purposes.

Under the circumstances we have to do something on our own to achieve at least a partial solution of the problem on an emergency basis. We seem to have acted not with enough prudence so far by creating something of an impression that the flow from the Ganges would continue and improve and that, therefore, no local or national or individual initiative would be necessary. Had the administration been as circumspect and pragmatic as not to do so and acted accordingly something could have been evolved to solve at least part of the problem.

This being so there is an element of suddenness with which the problem faces us, confounded by our unpreparedness both mentally and materially to face and tackle it. Bangladesh is poor, small and handicapped in many ways. The only way Bangladesh can face such a massive and crucial problem is to fall back on its own resources on a basis of optimal utilization of them. Unilateral decision by India over the Ganges water sharing and the continuing heavy withdrawals from the Ganges at the upper

reaches the hope of Bangladesh receiving much of the water remains slim — even under an agreement. And to make things worse for us there seems to be also the perceptible absence of the necessary will to solve the problem on a long term basis. The advantage of a big, powerful neighbour taking unilateral decisions without regard to the difficulties of a relatively small helpless neighbour is always great.

Hence the compulsive need of our going it alone — and almost wholly on our own, while waiting hopefully for a thaw in the stalemate through future negotiations if or when they take place. We have at least a land of God's plenty — of water seasonally received, only to wash and waste away into the sea. Could we go for reservoir-projects aimed at conservation of this annual rain water we might not be trying to do something very fantastic. We consider the idea and project feasible. Besides, we have already a network of canals dug in recent years; we have also "howar areas." Both these basins of conservation have however been heavily silted over the years, the canals being recent constructions and the mud taking quite a few years to settle and solidify. The howars are almost on the point of extinction, most of them levelling up with the banks — for years of lack of digging or reexcavation. Similarly we have the traditional complex of rural water ways campable of holding sufficient water. All these can be made a more adequate supplement to a projected water — reservoir scheme drawn up by our Water-Development experts preferably in consultation with foreign specialists. We have to go seriously for such indigenous, self-reliance ways of survival. The question from the agricultural development point, or generally from that of the national economy is of vital importance to us.

It is unfortunate though the Ganges is an international river. And Bangladesh's case for an equitable share of its water is supported by international law and ethics. But somehow none of these considerations seem to weigh much with India in this matter. On the contrary Bangladesh's anxiety for a settlement of the dispute has been not only for its own economic reasons but also for the sake of sustained good neighbourly relations. Let us hope that the road to solution still remains open with expectations of initiatives being revived by India to walk together up to it.

Port Strike Called Off Following Agreement

BK110448 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Apr 84

[Text] The 26-day-long port and dock workers strike has been called off. The decision, announced shortly before midnight last night, comes into force with immediate effect.

The decision followed 3 days of discussions in New Delhi between the leaders of the four port and dock workers federations and the officials of the Shipping and Transport Ministry. The minutes of the discussions were signed by the leaders of the federation and a representative of the ministry in presence of the minister, Mr Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy.

An official spokesman said a formal agreement will be signed today. On the basis of the settlement, the total wage bill of the workers will increase by 440 million rupees as against the government's last offer of 400 million and the federation leaders' demand of 570 million. The present annual wage bill is of the order of 2,163 million rupees. The house rent allowance will be paid under prerevised scale and the increase will be at a flat rate of 10 percent. This will be given in a phased manner spread over 4 years. The governemnt agreed to increase the house rent allowance in view of the acute scarcity of accomodation in port towns. The question of abolition of casual labor system will be referred to a commission. The Kerala home minister, Mr Vayalar Ravi, who was actively associated with the current round of talks, said the strike has been peaceful. The shipping and transport minister, Mr Reddy, said he is confident that this will lead to durable peace in the ports.

Reportage on Situation in Punjab 10-11 April

Amritsar Curfew

BK101613 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Apr 84

[Text] In Amritsar the curfew has been lifted since this morning. The situation in the city is officially described as peaceful and fully under control. Intensive patrolling by the police and paramilitary forces is, however, continuing in the city as a precautionary measure.

A member of the village defense force was killed by three car-borne terrorists at village (Murti) near Taran Taran early this morning.

One person was injured seriously when two armed assailants fired at him in Ferozepore this evening. The victim was going home on a scooter after closing his shop when he was attacked by the assailants.

Meanwhile, police detained the former Akali minister, Mr Sukhjinder Singh, last night in Kapurthala. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, he has been detained under the National Security Act.

Terrorist Activity

BK110452 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Apr 84

[Text] In Punjab, two persons were killed and one injured in two different incidents of terrorist activity last night. Two persons were killed in (Rahore) near Jullundhur when some unidentified terrorists fired at them. The victims were sleeping outside the towns when they were attacked. In the second incident, one person was injured seriously when some unidentified miscreants fired at him near (Alikude) village in Ferozepore district.

The Union Cabinet met in New Delhi yesterday to review the Punjab situation. The prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, presided over the meeting.

Council Releases 1983-84 Economic Projections

BK311034 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 31 Mar 84

[Text] The growth rate of the economy is expected to be around 7 percent during 1983-84. The National Council of Applied Economic Research says the prospects of agriculture look brighter than the previous year. After a good kharif [autumn crops] production is in the offing. Foodgrains production is likely to touch a new high of around a 144 million tons.

In its review for the 3d quarter of the year, the council says the growth rate of the industrial output showed an improvement and is expected to be over 3.7 percent during the quarter.

The rate of inflation has been continuously declining from February. The decline started in the 1st week of February, when inflation came down from 11.5 percent in the previous weeks to 11 percent. It was practically stagnant during the next 4 weeks. It started declining again, and in the 3d week of this month it stood at 9.3 percent.

The wholesale price index declined by more than 2 points in the 7 weeks.

Fuel Potential of Heavy Water Plants Discussed

BK110941 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 Apr 84

[Text] The Lok Sabha was informed that the existing heavy water plants and those under construction are expected to meet the requirement of fuel of the atomic power stations. The minister of state for energy, Mr Shiv Raj Patil, told the house that the decision to construct a series of nuclear power stations is under examination.

UN's Cordovez Reviews Talks, Leaves for Kabul

BK101644 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Apr 84

[Text] Diego Cordovez, personal representative of the UN secretary general on Afghanistan, has said that he feels there is a strong determination in Pakistan to achieve a comprehensive settlement of the Afghanistan problem, to move forward peace efforts, and to persist in a search for a solution to outstanding matters.

He was talking to newsmen at Islamabad airport this afternoon before his departure for Kabul to continue with shuttle diplomacy to solve the Afghanistan problem. He said his feeling is based on his thorough and very constructive discussions with President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan. He, however, said that the seriousness and delicateness of the situation should not be underestimated. This is not an isolated case but consists of many difficult problems which need deep thought and consideration for their solution. We are trying to determine a path to solve this problem, that will help overcome the present difficulties. Unfortunately, such a course of action has not yet been clearly defined. That is why after my telephone conversations with the UN secretary general last night and after seeking his approval, I have decided to go back to Kabul.

He said he will explore in Kabul further ways and means to overcome existing problems. He expressed the hope that he would be able to continue talks in Islamabad after his discussions in the Afghan capital. Mr Cordovez said that the encouraging thing in this connection is that there is a desire for a comprehensive settlement of this problem. Mr Cordovez said that the important thing is that a mechanism be found under which efforts for a comprehensive settlement are acceptable to all so that they could be moved forward. He said that foremost in his mind is the welfare of the Afghan people, for which we are engaged in these efforts.

Answering a question, he said he will return to Pakistan for 1 or 2 days after his talks in Kabul. He expressed the hope that he could also stop in Tehran on his way back to Geneva.

The secretary general, Niaz A. Naik, and senior officers of the Foreign Office saw him off at the airport.

Earlier, another round of talks, which lasted for about 45 minutes, was held between Mr Cordovez and Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in Islamabad in connection with the Afghan problem. Mr Cordovez was assisted during the talks by his aides, while Sahabzada Yaqub Khan was assisted by the foreign secretary.

Iranian Cultural Delegation Arrives 11 April

BK111048 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 11 Apr 84

[Text] The Iranian minister for culture and higher education, Dr Mohammad 'Ali Najafi, arrived in Islamabad this morning on a 10-day visit to Pakistan at the head of a 10-member delegation. Talking to newsmen at the airport, he said the purpose of his visit was to expand relations between Pakistan and Iran in cultural and educational fields. They would also explore possibilities of exchange of students and teachers between the two countries. Dr Najafi said cooperation between the universities of Iran and Pakistan in the scientific field would also figure at their discussions with the Pakistan officials concerned.

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Describes Talks

BK110644 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 10 Apr 84

[Text] The foreign minister of Sri Lanka, Mr A.C.S. Hameed, has said he has been assured by President Mohammad Ziaul Haq of Pakistan's active role in the forthcoming regional consultative meeting of the economic and social commission for Asia and the Pacific to be held in Bangkok in September. Talking to Radio Pakistan's representative before leaving Islamabad for Paris, he said the meeting is aimed at mobilizing all financial resources for new and renewable sources of energy.

Earlier, the Sri Lankan foreign minister had a meeting with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi today. He discussed with the president matters of mutual interest, including cooperation among countries of Asia and the Pacific region in the field of energy. The foreign minister of Sri Lanka had a meeting with the foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, and exchanged views on bilateral matters and regional issues. He also had a meeting with the minister of state for petroleum and natural resources, Dr Assad Mohammad Khan, in Islamabad today and discussed subjects concerning solar, wind, and biogas energy. The minister of state told Radio Pakistan's representative that the discussions focused on new and renewable energy resources and their use and development in the Third World countries.

NAWA-E WAQT on 'Bottlenecks' in U.S. Aid Program

GF070841 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 1 Apr 84 p 3

[Editorial: "U.S. Aid Program — New Bottlenecks"]

[Excerpts] According to reports from Washington, the Reagan administration has begun a campaign to annul the amendments aimed at creating impediments in the U.S. aid program (finalized in 1981), which have been approved by the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee.

The two amendments approved by the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee pertain to Pakistan's nuclear program and the restitution of full rights of the citizens and a representative government of the people. These two amendments were approved on the instigation of the pro-Indian Democratic Party's Zionist lobby members (Cranston, Glenn, and Pell). The prejudice against Pakistan was so open and obvious that when Committee Chairman Percy proposed that Pakistan should not be the only country, but other countries should also be included, it was not accepted.

The Zionist lobby's influence on Democratic Party senators in its opposition to Pakistan should not be so surprising or unexpected. The United States had decided on a program of economic and military aid to Pakistan in 1981 in view of the circumstances created by the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and even then, the Zionist lobby and pro-Israel members of the Senate had violently opposed it.

But the Reagan administration considered the interests of his country in the world and in Pakistan's economic progress and consolidation of its defense and had obtained Congress' support for its aid program for this reason. This has given the Zionist lobby an opportunity to oppose Pakistan every year.

Presidential elections in the United States are to be held in November 1984. Due to their immense influence in the media and their extreme opulence, all issues pertaining to elections and politics are tuned to the Zionist lobby in favor of Israel. It is a strange phenomenon and, in fact, a great tragedy that, despite being a superpower and such a huge country, the United States has become a needless subsidiary of a small country like Israel (which is as big as a mango seed) due to the influence of the Zionist lobby. This is a fact and one on which we can only express surprise, but we cannot deny its repercussions.

President Reagan will be able to override the new obstruction created by the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, but the extent to which the Zionist lobby is active against Pakistan has become clear and if the Democratic Party wins in the November polls, it is possible that there might be some sort of change in the U.S. policy vis-a-vis Pakistan.

The U.S. Zionist lobby's victim is not only Pakistan, but the whole Muslim world, and due to its antagonism, the United States cancelled its program of giving antiaircraft missiles to Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and other friendly countries. The amendments come at a time when the PPP's [Pakistan People's Party's] Acting President Miss Benazir Bhutto is touring the United States. From reports received here, we can construe that the basic issue is opposition to the present Pakistani Government rather than to the United States.

This makes it imperative for us to put the affairs of our house in order. We should not further procrastinate on timely and positive measures which we consider to be conducive to a democratic system and in tune with our traditions and interests. We should act on them in an appropriate manner so that our opponents and enemies should not get the opportunity to find an excuse to criticize or intervene in our internal affairs.

Reportage on Situation in Jaffna 11 April

Curfew Reimposed

BK111055 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 11 Apr 84

[Text] The curfew has been reimposed in the Jaffna municipal limits from 1200 noon today to 0600 tomorrow.

Tension Continues

BK111248 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 11 Apr 84

[Text] In Sri Lanka, tension continued in the northern provincial town of Jaffna today following more incidents of violence. PRESS TRUST OF INDIA, quoting official sources, said five extremists were killed in a gun battle with government troops. There were also reports of attacks by extremists on government buildings in a few other places. Curfew in the town has been extended till tomorrow morning. The Sri Lanka Cabinet met in Colombo this morning to consider a report from the national security minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, on the situation.

Violence Described

BK111406 Hong Kong AFP in English 1336 GMT 11 Apr 84

[By Neville de Silva]

[Excerpt] Colombo, April 11 (AFP) — Security forces have killed 22 suspected Tamil separatists since attacks began in the country's troubled port on Monday, official sources said today. Five people died today from among a group of six that clashed with an army patrol clashed [as received] after the 18 hour curfew imposed yesterday was lifted at 6 a.m. (0030 GMT). The group was armed with pistols and homemade bombs, minister of national security Lalith Athulathmudali, told newsmen today.

In another incident, eight people were killed when an army patrol fired on separatist elements after running into an ambush.

The government reimposed the curfew in the northern port of Jaffna at noon today after allowing citizens to stock up with household necessities. The government has also established a surveillance zone east and south of Sri Lanka's maritime boundary with India in the Palk Strait in a bid to halt illicit entries and and exists, which the minister said largely involved separatists. These waters have been used by drug smugglers in the past and security sources believe that Tamil separatists were travelling from southern India for operations in the north of the island. Mr. Athulathmudali said that no vessel or person will be permitted between the outer zone and the boundary with India.

The minister confirmed that the Customs and Highways Department buildings in Jaffna, were attacked by Tamil separatists last night despite the curfew.

The Point Pedro police station, outside the curfew limits, was burnt down after the Tamil policemen there were ordered to leave. The attackers were armed with sten guns and automatic weapons, the minister said. Attempts were also made to ambush army patrols during curfew hours and in the incident the soldiers fired back killing eight separatists. One soldier was wounded in the attack.

The government has stopped all trains to Jaffna because of the uneasy situation.

The national security minister said that a fuel shortage was likely soon because drivers were refusing to take fuel trucks to the north, and food, particularly bread, could also soon be in short supply, he said, as the separatists had attacked bakeries.

The minister queried Indian Government claims there were about 30,000 Sri Lankan refugees in south India. He said local records showed that only about 11,000 people had left legally from exit points after last July's riots in which nearly 400 people died. This is expected to be one of the issues that Mr. Athulathmudali will discuss with Indian leaders when he goes to New Delhi soon. He refused to say when he was leaving but informed sources said that he will leave tomorrow.

Security Minister Urges Cooperation Against Terror

BK111123 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 11 Apr 84

[Text] The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, said yesterday that it was the duty of all citizens belonging to all communities to extend their fullest cooperation to the government to prevent terrorists from trying to change our national heritage. Addressing a religious ceremony at (Belnala), the minister said that any acts of violence in other areas were detrimental to national harmony as they would only be an encouragement and support to the terrorists in the north.

The minister also explained difficulty faced by the country today in finding a solution to the problem.

Italian Weekly Reports Work on Atomic Bomb

LD101414 Kuwait KUNA in English 1219 GMT 10 Apr 84

[Text] Rome, April 10 (KUNA) — The Italian weekly *PAN ORAMA* revealed Monday that Iran is currently engaged in the production of an atomic bomb which it said is likely to be ready within a maximum period of two years.

The weekly said a West German company has already despatched some forty nuclear experts to resume work on the 1,300 megawatt-power nuclear reactor in the southern Iranian city of Bushehr where work was suspended in 1979.

PANORAMA quoted a spokesman of the West German company confirming the report and saying a delegation from the company visited Tehran last January to finalise studies on Bushehr plant.

The magazine also quoted West German intelligence sources saying production of the nuclear bomb in Bushehr is entering the final stages but that Federal Germany has conditioned completion of the work to Tehran's termination of the war with Iraq.

Units of the Iranian army are guarding the nuclear installations for fear of Iraqi air strikes, the weekly said, recalling that the project was originally launched by the late shah for construction of 13 nuclear reactors in Iran.

Aim of Egyptian Initiative on Gulf War Examined

GF102050 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0715 GMT 10 Apr 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Egyptian media are disseminating reports about an Egyptian plan aimed at ending the war between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the ruling regime in Baghdad. This plan is supposed to be presented by the Mubarak government to the nonaligned countries and then to the UN Security Council. This plan is regarded as the very first diplomatic initiative undertaken by the Egyptian Government following its stymied political situation of recent years, as a result of its signing of the Camp David accord with the Zionist enemy.

A review of this plan shows that its basic goal is to open the doors shut to Egyptian diplomacy, that is, return Egypt to the international map so that it can play a political role in the current stage. The current Egyptian Government found out that the aggressive war which the Baghdad regime has launched against the Islamic Republic of Iran is the best way to extricate itself from the isolation from which the Mubarak regime is suffering as a result of his policy which is counter to the feelings of the nation and as a result of his policy of coercion of the Egyptian masses.

This regime thus far has membership neither in the Nonaligned Movement nor in the Arab League. Moreover, this regime has no diplomatic relations with tens of the Arabs and Islamic countries due to its conspiracy against the Palestinian people and alliance with the Zionist enemy. It can be concluded that it is hard for any country in the world to experience such novel isolation, particularly if this country is Egypt which cannot exist without foreign aid and without trade and economic dealings with other countries. Moreover, there is a political role that the Mubarak regime should have been playing in accordance with U.S. policy in the region. But this was prevented as a result of international isolation that condemned Egyptian policy and chained the capitulationist regime by blocking it from playing any role, regardless of how small or meaningless.

Therefore, we saw that Egypt was trying to find a way out of its predicament, to find a way for Egyptian diplomacy to play a role. Therefore, the plan, which the Egyptian Government has proposed, is a means of breaking the ice that blocks its passage to the political and diplomatic arena — to ultimately enable it to break the barrier of isolation from the Third World.

The current political situation of the Mubarak regime is different from that of 2 years or even 1 year ago. Had it not been for its strategic alliance with the Baghdad regime in this war launched against the Islamic Republic of Iran, then it would have not been able to attain any gain on the political and diplomatic levels, the latest of which was Iraq's endorsing of its membership in the Islamic Conference Organization.

Mubarak perhaps is thinking that this plan will end Egypt's political isolation and open the way to its return to the international stage. If this is true, it is obvious what is included in this plan. But even if this plan succeeds in attaining the political goal the Mubarak regime is seeking — the restoration of its international relations — it still will not change the course of the war. The Mubarak regime may exert a great deal of effort to push forth its plan, but basically it opposes peace and security.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,692

LD101723 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Apr 84

[Communique No 1,692 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] During the past 24 hours, fighting by the Islamic combatants on the southern fronts and on the Majnun Islands has been to protect their defensive positions and to continue strengthening and consolidating them. In every sector, Islam's mighty combatants fired heavy artillery at the enemy's positions and supply routes, disrupting enemy engineering movements, activities, and supply actions and inflicting losses and casualties on him.

Similarly, the Gendarmerie combatants destroyed a 120-mm mortar and at least 10 bunkers and foxholes of the Saddamist forces on the Arvand Rud front.

On the border fronts in Bakhtaran to the most northerly point of the clashes in the Piranshah region, sporadic exchanges of fire continued between Islam's mighty forces and the Iraqi Ba'thist forces, and Islam's victorious combatants in every region observed every move and activity of the Iraqi forces, fired on and delivered blows to them, and thus killed a number of duped Saddamist servicemen.

The number of enemy casualties in the Panjwin region totaled 25, and one enemy truck and some of his positions were destroyed.

Yesterday, the Iraqi forces fire damaged 20 houses and stores in Abadan.

Post Office Boxes Set Up in Majnun Islands
GF101746 Tehran IRNA in English 1633 GMT 10 Apr 84

[Text] Tehran, April 10, IRNA — The Ministry of Posts and Telegraph has installed nine post boxes in the Majnun Islands, eastern Iraq liberated by the Iranian forces during the Khaybar offensive. It enables the Islamic combatants in the islands to keep in touch with their families.

Water Heaters Manufactured for War Front Use
GF101729 Tehran IRNA in English 1653 GMT 10 Apr 84

[Text] Arak, April 10, IRNA — For the first time a water-heater specially designed for the war fronts has been produced by the efforts of the central provinces educational jihad office.

The head of the jihad told IRNA here that the heater was modeled after a foreign design and could heat 200 liters of water in 20 minutes by consuming 3.5 liters of kerosene.

The heater weighs only 15 kilograms and is ideal for mountainous region where bathing facilities for the combatants are difficult to set up.

He added the heater had been built in five days after gathering the necessary parts and had been successfully tested by the officials of the construction jihad in Hamadan.

The educational jihad official also expressed hope that with close cooperation with the Arak machine building factory the needs of the military forces for such heaters in the fronts would be met.

IRNA: U.S. Riot Control Equipment Shipped to Iraq
GF101736 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 10 Apr 84

[Text] Tehran, April 10, IRNA — The United States has shipped riot control devices to the Baghdad regime, according to reliable sources in Kuwait today.

The first shipments of such devices were forwarded to Baghdad via Ash-Shu'aybah Port of Kuwait recently though Washington, Iraq and Kuwait have so far kept silent about the news.

In early October 1983, U.S. State Department said in an announcement that the U.S. ban on exports to Iraq was no longer warranted.

Ever since that time Reagan's personal envoy has twice visited Baghdad and met and held talks with Saddam and other Iraqi officials for bringing the outlooks of the two governments closer together.

Observers also maintain that purchase of riot control devices by the Baghdad regime portrays the fear of the ruling regime in Iraq from rising Muslims.

Armored Division Commander Comments on War
GF101742 Tehran IRNA in English 1617 GMT 10 Apr 84

[Text] Zahedan, April 10, IRNA — The commander of the armoured division 88 of Zahedan east Iran, commenting on the Iraqi imposed war, said here today that the world oppressors have realised that they were powerless vis-a-vis the strength and power of the Muslims.

He further added that Islam through its power would soon shatter such powers. He continued that these powers by supplying the Iraqi ruler and the Zionist regime with advanced weapons including chemical, have been trying to prolong the war and save the Iraqi regime. However, the Iranian people through their firm faith in Islam were determined to defeat the enemy.

He also praised performance of the personnel of the division in warfronts and said they have been dealing crushing blows on the Iraqi forces.

Ayatollah Meshkini Addresses SAIRI Fighters
GF111028 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 11 Apr 84

[Text] Ayatollah Meshkini, chairman of the Council of Experts and imam of Qom, yesterday received in the holy city of Qom a group of fighters affiliated with the mobilization of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], who are located at the fronts of the war imposed by the ruling regime in Iraq against the Islamic Revolution.

Ayatollah Meshkini told these Iraqi Muslim fighters: You have to be patient as the friends of God's prophet were when they departed their homeland, tolerated homelessness, and vanquished the enemies through their patience and faith. You also have to topple the Zionist Ba'thist Party in Iraq by firmly continuing the war.

Concluding his statement, Ayatollah Meshkini stressed the need for the Iraqi Muslim people in Iraq to comprehensively struggle against the ruling regime in Iraq.

Armenian Group Warns Ozal Against Visiting Iran
NC101240 Paris AFP in English 1233 GMT 10 Apr 84

[Text] Tehran, April 10 (AFP) — An extremist group which has claimed the assassinations of numerous Turkish diplomats abroad todayrepeated threats to attack airlines serving Turkey and warned Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal against making any visit to Iran.

In a telephone call to the AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE bureau here, a man claiming to represent the Armenian Secret Army for

the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) said airlines flying to Turkey "will be the targets of our revolutionary" commandos.

ASALA issued the same threats on March 28, following an attack on two Turkish diplomats in the Iranian capital.

One of the victims, the deputy military attache, Sergeant Ismail Pamucku, remains hospitalized in a coma here, according to Turkish diplomatic sources. The attack was claimed by ASALA.

The caller also warned: "If Turgut Ozal comes to Iran, whatever the motive, we, the Secret Army of Armenia, will teach the fascist Turkish regime a lesson history will not forget."

Materials on Upcoming Majlis Elections

Elections Committee Statement

LD111018 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 11 Apr 84

[Text] According to our correspondent's report on certain election violations, the following statement was issued yesterday by the head of the Council of Guardians Elections Supervision Central Committee:

In His Almighty name. The Elections Supervision Central Committee of the Council of Guardians draws the attention of the martyr-nurturing nation of Iran to the following points:

1. *ETTELA'AT* and *KEYHAN* today introduced candidates in the name of a number of honorable ministers in the government, mentioning their positions, in clear violation of the law, and this will be subject to legal action.

2. Candidates seeking election to the Majlis and their supporters are warned that violations such as the use of government or public facilities or slogans against other candidates are clear evidence of failure to comply with the law, which might well serve ultimately to disqualify candidates. They must, therefore,desist from such violations, and by conforming to the law and Islamic ethics, they should prove that they are worthy enough to represent the sincere and selfless nation, thus preserving the integrity of the elections.

[Signed] Mohammad Imami-Kashani, head of the Central Committee for Elections Supervision, Council of Guardians

IRNA on BBC Comments

GF101651 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 10 Apr 84

["Enemies Duplicity Rapped on Iran's Majlis Elections" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, April 10, IRNA — With less than a week to go before the second Majlis elections, the ninth election since the establishment of the Islamic Republic, and while Muslim Iranians are unitedly preparing to take another major step in further stabilising the great Islamic revolution, enemies of the revolution are busy trying to affect the outcome by spreading baseless rumours.

Foreign and counterrevolutions' radios, fully aware of the importance of the forthcoming Majlis elections specially at a time when Iran is involved in an imposed war, are employing all means to disrepute and downplay the significance of them.

In a commentary on Majlis elections on April 5, the BBC concluded that ... many of Iranian voters feel that because candidates have been officially approved and are staunch supporters of Islamic Republic, therefore it stands to reason that the Majlis elections will not have much effect on the situation.

The BBC, in an oblique reference to statistics on the many Iranian voters, said that they believe that to vote [word indistinct] or that candidates would have little effect on the outcome of the elections.

The British Broadcasting Company has exerted utmost efforts to dissuade Iranian people from taking part in the forthcoming elections, choosing to ignore their unprecedented participation in the previous eight elections.

The loudspeakers of international imperialism are trying hard to inject into people's minds an attitude of indifference towards the elections since it is well aware that their vigilance is one of the most important backings of the Islamic revolution.

This time again, Muslim people of Iran will prove their support for the Islamic combatants fighting in fronts of the Iraqi imposed war by their united participation in the elections and would further prove their defence for the Islamic revolution.

Right and left will once again fail to make Muslim people of Iran indifferent towards its freedom, independence, and safeguarding the blood of the thousands of martyrs of the Islamic revolution and Republic.

Bazargan Boycott

GF101452 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 9 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Engineer Mehdi Bazargan, leader of Iran's Nehzat-e Azadi, has boycotted the elections for the second Majlis.

The published list of candidates for Tehran reveals that Mehdi Bazargan has boycotted the elections and is not prepared to participate. The list published by the Interior Ministry names those who have been granted permission to participate in the elections and who are members of the Islamic Republican Party, the terrorist Islamic Ad-Da'wah Party, the terrorist Feda'iyan-e Islam organization, the terrorist Jahad-e Eslami organization, the society of Qom theological center's seminarians, the office of Mullah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, SAVAMA, and the Guards Corps.

National Front Statement

GF101539 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 9 Apr 84

[Text] The National Front of Iran [NFI] has boycotted the forthcoming contrived elections by the Khomeyni regime. The NFI issued a statement in Paris yesterday evening. The statement says:

In the name of the nation and [words indistinct] of Iran. Even though the mullahs of the so-called Islamic Majlis have already been selected, Khomeyni and the cronies of his regime are making a futile effort in a bid to put on a [words indistinct] show. They want to pretend to the world that there is still some freedom in Iran even though they find themselves isolated. However, the people of Iran have become familiar with such puppet shows and plays and [passage indistinct].

The people of Iran, who gave a vote of no confidence to Khomeyni on 1 and 2 April in the course of their proud moves and again stressed that the current regime is illegal and antinationalist, are bravely determined now not to participate in the contrived elections of the Majlis of the mullahs since people have boycotted these elections and this Majlis.

The NFI statement adds: The empty threats and rumors of the agents of the regime will no longer have any affect on the undefeatable and strong determination of a people who are carrying out their national duties and who are being called upon to do great things. The people of Iran will again show the world on Sunday, 15 April, the unimaginable hatred that they have for Khomeyni. He has no way out but to stop his false caliphate, and his regime is doomed to collapse.

[Signed] Paris, National Front of Iran

Cultural Minister Leaves for Pakistan

GF101713 Tehran IRNA in English 1637 GMT 10 Apr 84

[Text] Tehran, April 10, IRNA — Iran's minister of culture and higher education, Mohammad 'Ali Najafi, left here today for Pakistan at the head of a cultural delegation for talks with Pakistan's President Ziaul Haq as well as that country's minister of higher education.

Before his departure Najafi told reporters that the visit was made at the invitation of the Government of Pakistan and that it was aimed at expansion of cultural and scientific ties between the two friendly neighbouring countries.

He said that other issues such as the exchanges of experts at various cultural and scientific levels, and a plan for cultural exchanges and joint scientific and academic activities would also be discussed.

He said the issue of exchanges of students was rated as top priority among the issues to be discussed between the Iranian and Pakistani officials.

NVOI Comments on Mission of UN Envoy on Afghanistan

TA102048 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 10 Apr 84

[Unattributed commentary: "One Should Act in Support of Afghan Revolution, Not Against It"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: The UN secretary general's envoy continues his mission in our region, aimed at a political settlement of the problems relating to Afghanistan. It should be noted that Mr Babrak Karmal, head of the Democratic Afghan Government, has again emphatically announced that his government is fully prepared to talk with the Governments of Pakistan and Iran. He stressed, however, that Iran and Pakistan should stop intervening in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and should stop serving as bases for counterrevolutionaries who carry out subversive activities against the Afghan people.

Everyone knows that subversive activities against Democratic Afghanistan are continuing from Iran and Pakistan. Ziaul Haq, who seized power by resorting to the bayonet, is calling into question the legitimacy of the leader of the Democratic Afghan Government, who fought for 30 years for the independence and freedom of his country and who was twice elected as an assembly deputy. We all know that, immediately after assuming power, Mr Karmal proposed negotiations with Pakistan without any conditions whatsoever. In turn, Ziaul Haq is pursuing a two-sided policy. He says that he has no claims toward Moscow, but that this issue cannot be resolved with Kabul.

Ziaul Haq has used the events in Afghanistan as a pretext to receive as many weapons as possible from America and to obtain Washington's financial and political support. The reason for Pakistan's stand toward the problems around Afghanistan is clear.

As far as America's stand is concerned, there is no ambiguity either. Washington is interested in the aggravation of tensions around Afghanistan because, by pursuing a policy of terror on the international level, it wants to revive its weakened strategic positions in the Persian Gulf and Iran. The question posed, however, is why does the Islamic Government participate actively in this tumult and subversive activities against Afghanistan and why is it in the same trench with America, which it considers to be the No 1 enemy of Iran?

It seems that the Islamic Government fears Democratic Afghanistan as an example of a country in which the progressive principles of revolutionary Islam are implemented, not just with words but in actions. As an example, it suffices to consider the policy of the Democratic Afghan Government regarding peasants and land reform. Since the very first day of its foundation, the Democratic Afghan Government undertook the mission of land distribution among its real owners, that is, the toiling peasants. In implementing this program so far, the Democratic Afghan Government has expropriated 840,000 acres of land from landowners and has distributed them among peasants free of charge. Fundamental land reform in Afghanistan ended centur

ies of bondage by peasants and exempted them from paying various taxes. Moreover, the Democratic Afghan Government has adopted a series of measures to develop agriculture in the country and accordingly is providing farmers with seed, fertilizers, and tractors with favorable terms. Only last year, Afghanistan's agricultural bank loaned farmers about 3 billion afghanis, that is, $60 million. So far 1,200 agricultural cooperatives have been established in Afghanistan's villages.

We do not see such a thing in our own homeland, Iran. We all know that the land reform bill approved by the Revolution Council, despite its being distorted and emasculated in the Islamic Majlis, was finally buried in the slaughterhouse of the Council of Guardians under the pretext that it is inconsistent with shari'a and Islamic standards. Of course, members of such a Council of Guardians cannot close their eyes to the clear victories of the revolution in Democratic Afghanistan. For this reason, these gentlemen and their associates in the Islamic Government, together with U.S. imperialism and Pakistan's reactionaries, engage in subversion against the Afghan revolution.